IBM and NASSCOM Foundation makes about 5000 students employment ready

Train students from non-technical colleges in new technologies like Data Science and Cloud Computing

Bangalore, July 15, 2021 – About 5000 underserved youth from regions across Karnataka, Telangana and Delhi-NCR are now skilled in Data Science and Cloud computing, with over 2000 of them placed in jobs through a program by IBM (NYSE: IBM) in partnership with NASSCOM Foundation aimed at making India's youth future ready.

As part of IBM's [SkillsBuild career readiness program](#), IBM and NASSCOM Foundation worked with 23 colleges to certify enrolled students on IBM certified courses on emerging technologies including Data science and Cloud computing in 2019. This unique program engaged students with an on-campus, 250 hour-long blended training model that uses online and face-to-face training to build skills in new-age technologies like Data Science and Cloud Computing in its first year.

Subsequently, the program pivoted into a completely online mode of education and learning due to COVID based restrictions in 2020. Students from 23 Tier-2 and Tier-3 non-technical institutions were trained by partners TMI and iPrimed. The colleges chosen for the program included Vijaya Evening College, East Point College, Vidya Vahini College, Vivekanand Degree College, Karnataka college Dharwad, Siddaganga College, KSS Arts, Science and Commerce College, Siddhaganga Women's College. Several other colleges in Dharwar, Bhagalkot, Gadag, Koppal, Nargund, Bangalore, and Tumkur in Karnataka and Faridabad in Haryana were also a part of the program.

After the training, IBM and NASSCOM Foundation, in association with training partners, have been conducting placement drives across the country and have already placed over 2000 students in leading technology organizations despite the challenges caused by the pandemic.

IBM has championed the development of technical, soft skills and life-skills in youth to prepare them for the 'new collar', future-ready jobs.

Manoj Balachandran, Leader, Corporate Social Responsibility, IBM India/South Asia said, *"Aligned to the Skill India mission, IBM is committed to bridging the skills gap by working with an ecosystem of industry partners, academia and government to provide professional and technical skills to students and teachers. As the industry leader in emerging technologies, we consider it our responsibility to leverage that technical expertise in making skills training accessible to every learner across the country. On World Youth Skills Day, we are proud to have*

IMPACT in Numbers

- Trained and Certified: 4650
- Colleges: 23
- Trainers: TMI and iPrimed
- Placed: 2061**

Program Impact example:

Pragati, a BSc student from KSS Arts, Science and Commerce College, Gadag is the first girl from her region to join a degree college. Her father is a farmer and had the responsibility to provide for the entire family alone. Providing financial support to her family is critical for her.

The IBM cloud computing course training that Pragati took, helped her to gain much needed knowledge and insights into the world of new age technologies and virtual environments. The training helped Pragati to be not only at par with industry skills requirements but also job-ready.

Today ,after putting in the hard work and getting certified through the course, Pragati has been placed in Quess Corp as a cloud support executive. Now not only can she

associated with NASSCOM Foundation and our esteemed partners in providing industry-relevant content, skill sets and employment to students that will help them future proof their skills and build careers."

support her father & family, she is also on a path to a great career and financial stability for herself.

** Placements still underway

Nidhi Bhasin, CEO, NASSCOM Foundation, commenting on the completion of the program, said, "*The Future is blended learning – be it a combination between face-to-face and online/digital mode or between structured curriculum and skills based or applications based learning, or a fantastic combination between all these. Despite the challenges during the ongoing COVID pandemic, NASSCOM Foundation is proud to work with IBM on this initiative, where together, we have skilled about 5000 youth and placed over 2000 of those students. We would like to sincerely urge companies to take this initiative as an example to join us in our goal of closing the industry's skills gap, in line with the SDGs, to provide employability to the youth from underserved communities.*"

IBM and NASSCOM Foundation **have** also previously partnered to **train students using other coursework on SkillsBuild designed for teens and university students**. This engagement registered more than 50,000 users from almost 500 institutions across India being trained on Technologies like AI, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing and more.

About IBM India

For more information on IBM India, please visit http://www.ibm.com/in/en.

For the latest annual corporate responsibility report describing IBM's leadership and accountability in how it collaborates with communities, clients, governments, shareholders, employees, and not-for-profits on environmental, social service, and governance issues, please visit here. Follow IBM's corporate social responsibility initiatives by following @IBMorg or visiting www.IBM.org.

About NASSCOM Foundation:

As the social arm of NASSCOM, the foundation works with the technology industry in achieving its goals of social transformation and impact through technology. Since over a decade of its existence, the foundation has touched more than one million lives through its efforts towards providing digital literacy, skills for livelihood, supporting Persons with disabilities, fostering innovation, empowering Non-profits with technology and engaging in volunteerism.

For more information, visit www.nasscomfoundation.org

For further information: Arun Kumar | arun.kumarm@in.ibm.com